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true for one region may be far from true in another. For example, *Shepherdia canadensis*, *Artemisia canadensis*, and *Pellaea atropurpurea* are cited as calcicoles. In the Chicago region, only the latter is commonly a calcicole, and it is also a silicicole. It is doubtful too if the chemical theory can account for the prevalence of alpine plants in bogs, a phenomenon readily explained by the current theories.—HENRY C. COWLES.

Ecological notes from New Zealand.—Some of COCKAYNE'S[4] brief papers should be noticed here. *Coprosma Baueri* is found to show a striking case of leaf variation. In the usual natural habitat the leaves are fleshy and have margins so recurved as to be called "rolled;" in shade the leaves are much larger and quite flat. An accompanying photograph shows how striking is the variation. The second paper discusses the supposed finding of a seashore Celmisia in the mountains; the two forms are very similar, but COCKAYNE believes, as everyone must in these days, that the court of last resort in the determination of the validity of species is no longer the herbarium but the experimental garden. The Poor Knights Islands are small precipitous islands exposed to the open sea and never before visited by a naturalist. The scrub formation, in which *Suttonia divaricata* dominates, differs from any allied New Zealand formation; the luxuriance of the arborescent plants is very remarkable in view of the great exposure of the islands. A Carmichaelia, known previously from but one place and that far away, probably attests that the species was once widespread. In another paper, COCKAYNE[5] has added another to the long list of probable mutants observed in nature. This case is of special interest because the mutation is in a plant well known in the region, and is too conspicuous to be overlooked. *Leptospermum scoparium* is one of the commonest weeds of New Zealand, and possesses white or sometimes pink flowers. The "mutant" consists of a crimson-flowered form, and it is noteworthy that the foliage is so much darker that it is easy to pick out the mutant in the seedling condition. In connection with COCKAYNE'S studies it should be noted that he has published a large amount of ecological literature in popular form in the *Lyttelton Times*, a Christchurch paper. These essays have been well written and must have done much to interest New Zealanders in the remarkable vegetation of their country, and to induce them to take steps to preserve this vegetation in large part through the medium of government reservations.—HENRY C. COWLES.

Plant-breeding in the tropics.—LOCK[6] has published a third report on hybridization experiments carried on at Peradeniya, Ceylon, giving in detail the results

[4] COCKAYNE, L., On a specific case of leaf variation in *Coprosma Baueri* Endl.; on the supposed Mount Bonpland habitat of *Celmisia Lindsayi* Hook. f.; Notes on a brief botanical visit to the Poor Knights Islands. Trans. N. Z. Inst. **38**:341–360. 1906.

[5] COCKAYNE, L., On the sudden appearance of a new character in an individual of *Leptospermum scoparium*. New Phytologist **6**:43–46. 1907.

[6] LOCK, R. H., Studies in plant breeding in the tropics. III. Experiments with maize. Ann. Roy. Bot. Gard. Peradeniya **3**: 95–184. 1906.